

CD 2012 - 37



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

Rob Ford, The Opera

Concept & Libretto: Michael Patrick Albano

Composers: Massimo Guida, Anna Höstman, Adam Scime,
Saman Shahi

Featuring Singers of the Opera Division
and Members of the gamUT ensemble

Sunday, January 22, 2012
2:30 p.m. MacMillan Theatre
Edward Johnson Building
80 Queen's Park

2011-12 SEASON

ROB FORD, THE OPERA

Director: **Erik Thor**

Conductor: **Rafael Luz**

Set/Lighting Designer: **Fred Perruzza**

Costumes Designer: **Lisa Magill**

Musical Preparation: **Andrea Grant**

Stage Manager: **Isolde Pleasants-Falkner***

Production Assistant: **Ann Bisch**

Surtile Operator: **John Sharpe**

CAST (In order of appearance)

Rob Ford's Father

Fabian Arciniegas

Rob Ford's Mother

Eliza Johnson

Rob Ford

Andrew Haji

Secretaries to Rob Ford

Remeron

Elizabeth Polese

Paxil

Andromahi Raptis

Nardil

Anna Sharpe

Margaret Atwood

Rosanna Murphy

A Homeless Woman

Caitlin Wood

An Injured Cyclist

Conrad Siebert

An Unhappy Seagull

Jamillynn Gubbe

ENSEMBLE OF METRO TORONTO LIBRARIANS AND CITY HALL PROTESTORS:

Adanya Dunn, Elizabeth Polese, Andromahi Raptis, Anna Sharpe,
Michelle Siemens, Chelsea Van Pelt, Laura Widgett

GAMUT ENSEMBLE

Flute: Robin Meiksins, Brian Jiang; **Oboe:** Emily Willmon, Chieh-Ying Lu

Clarinet: Mike Dassios, Caitlin de Rosenroll; **Saxophone:** Jeffrey Leung;

Horn: Natalie Worden; **Trumpet:** Matthew Ross, Kieran Anson-Cartwright

Trombone: Emma Metzger, Dale Sorensen; **Piano:** Wesley Shen;

Percussion: Jonathan Smith, Alejandro Cespedes Pazos; **Guitar:** Alexei Orechin;

Violin: Coco Chen, Meagan Turner; **Viola:** Andrea Poon; **Bass:** Adam Scime;

Soprano: Eliza Johnson, Sara Schabas, Alexandra Smither, Leslie Bickle, Brittany Rae,

Hannah Tarder-Stoll, Claire Bellemare, Jessica McKay, Lauren Crowther,

Sarah Moore, Morgan MacNeill

**by permission of Canadian Actors Equity Association*

Our thanks to Princess Margaret Hospital for the loan of the gurney

OUR COMPOSERS

COMPOSED BY MASSIMO GUIDA

Scene 1 - *A nursery in the Ford home*

Scene 1A - *A Toronto hospital*

Scene 2 - *A nursery in the Ford home*

COMPOSED BY ADAM SCIME

Scene 3 - *Nathan Phillips Square*

Scene 4 - *The office of the Mayor*

COMPOSED BY ANNA HÖSTMAN

Scene 5 - *A courtroom on the astral plane*

COMPOSED BY SAMAN SHAHI

Scene 6 - *Epilogue*

ABOUT THE STUDENT COMPOSER PROJECT

In 1997, the Opera Division inaugurated a workshop at the Faculty of Music to allow student composers to gain experience writing operatic scenes, following a process of composition, dramaturgy, orchestration and staged public performance. The concept proved so successful that the workshop was ultimately introduced as a formal course in composition at the Master of Music level.

For the past fourteen years, I have explored a wide spectrum of text choices; classic texts adapted from Euripides and Sophocles as well as established Canadian playwrights marked our earliest efforts. The visit of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's grandson to the University of Toronto inspired us to tackle three scenes from *Anna Karenina*. Two seasons ago, with *The Essential Hamlet*, I adapted [and in a moment of Hamlet-like madness] rewrote the six pivotal scenes of Shakespeare's towering masterpiece. Gradually, we have moved towards original scenarios, both in concept and story line. Challenging the European ownership of opera, I devised several scenes which were not only Canadian, but Toronto-centric. *Three Scenes from Urban Life*, presented light hearted as well as serious aspects of life in our increasingly diverse city. We have also experimented with site-specific opera; three ten minute operas [*Litigation Daydreams*, *Kitty Litter*, *A Breach of Promise in Little Italy*] set in the innately theatrical environment of a courtroom, were actually performed in the Moot Court at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law.

I have long been a fan of The Theatre of the Absurd [skillfully pioneered by Apollinaire, Ionesco, and Samuel Beckett] and this seemed instinctively the right approach for *Rob Ford, the opera*; an attempt to tug opera into the no-holds-barred ring of the ridiculous as well as reasserting the undeniable birthright of the theatre, irreverence.

Michael Patrick Albano
Resident Stage Director, Opera Division

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We hope that you have enjoyed this afternoon's performance and ask that you consider supporting the University Of Toronto Faculty Of Music. Your gift will allow us to offer scholarships and bursaries to students, offer master classes, concerts and lectures with internationally renowned musicians and support undergraduate and graduate research.

Following the performance, students will be in the lobby, with baskets, to collect any donations you wish to make.

To make a gift online please go to <https://donate.utoronto.ca/music>

For information on giving opportunities at the Faculty of Music please contact Bruce Blandford at 416-946-3145 or bruce.blandford@utoronto.ca

NEXT OPERA EVENT

Così fan Tutte W.A. Mozart

Through intrigue and disguise, love's lessons are deeply learned in Mozart's final, towering collaboration with Lorenzo da Ponte.

Thursday through Sunday
March 8, 9, 10 – 7:30 pm
March 11 – 2:30 pm

Miah Im, conductor | Michael Patrick Albano, director

MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building,
80 Queen's Park, Toronto ON M5S 2C5
Tickets: \$30 (\$20 senior/student). Call 416-408-0208
or visit the Weston Family Box Office at the
TELUS Centre, 273 Bloor St. West.